

Appl. No. : 10/612,766
Filed : July 2, 2003

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 1-21 are allowed. Claims 46-63 were previously withdrawn with the Applicant's response to Restriction Requirement of August 23, 2005. The Applicant hereby cancels Claims 46-63 without prejudice and explicitly reserves the right to pursue this cancelled and previously withdrawn restricted subject matter via a corresponding divisional application.

The Examiner further indicates that Claims 30-32 and Claims 41-45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, however indicates that said claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant hereby amends independent Claim 22 to further include the limitations of previously pending Claim 30 as well as the limitations of the intervening Claims 28, 27, and 26. Claims 26, 27, 28, and 30 are further cancelled by this paper. Thus, the Applicant believes that Claim 22 as amended to include the limitations of previously pending Claims 26, 27, 28 and 30 is now allowable as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action. The Applicant further believes that the claims depending directly or indirectly from Claim 22 as amended by this paper properly further limit the claimed invention and are further allowable due to their dependence directly or indirectly on the amended independent Claim 22.

Similarly, previously dependent Claim 41 is amended by this paper to independent form and further to include the limitations of previously intervening independent Claims 27 and 26 as well as the limitations of previously pending Claim 22 from which Claim 41 previously depended. As indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, the Applicant thus believes that Claim 41 as currently amended to independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening dependent claims is now allowable. The Applicant further believes that Claims 42 through 44 properly depend from Claim 41 as amended, further limit the claimed invention and are thus allowable due to their dependence on Claim 41 as amended.

Similarly, Claim 45 previously depending from Claim 27 is amended by this paper to independent form and further to include the limitations of previously intervening Claims 27 and 26 as well as the limitations of the base Claim 22. Thus, as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, the Applicant believes that Claim 45 as amended is allowable.

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SUMMARY

The Applicant thus believes that the subject application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests prompt issuance of a notice of allowability. The Applicant believes that this paper is fully responsive to the objections made by the Examiner in the Office Action, however, should there remain any further impediment to the allowance of this application that might be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number.

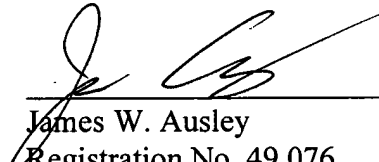
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: April 4, 2006

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